



Department of State

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-07 IO-15 ISO-00 SIG-03 MMO-01
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION SINAI

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

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USINT BAGHDAD

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AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL PESHAWAR
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
DOD WASHDC
JCS WASHDC 0000
CIA WASHDC 0000
USICA WASHDC
NSC WASHDC 0000
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS POUCH

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD, TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 AM

E.O. 12065 N/A

TAGS: SOPM

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON POST STORY ON AMB. DUBS' DEATH

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION, FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF FRONT-PAGE WASHINGTON STORY THURSDAY, FEB. 22.

2. BEGIN TEXT. SOVIET ROLE ALLEGED IN DUBS' DEATH. STATE DEPT. CABLE GIVES DETAILS OF SLAYING IN KABUL. BY JIM HOAGLAND. QUOTE ONE SOVIET ADVISER HELPED TO ARM AN AFGHAN POLICEMAN. TWO OTHER SOVIET POLICE ADVISERS AND BAKHTURIN WENT OUT TO THE BALCONY. THE TALL, SENIOR SOVIET ADVISER

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THEN MADE HAND SIGNALS FROM THE BALCONY, PRESUMABLY POSITIONING THE SNIPERS ACROSS THE STREET.

THEN, ACCORDING TO A CONFIDENTIAL STATE DEPARTMENT CABLE, AFGHAN POLICE COMMANDOS POURED HEAVY GUNFIRE INTO THE KABUL HOTEL ROOM WHERE US AMBASSADOR ADOLPH DUBS WAS BEING HELD HOSTAGE.

HORRIFIED US OFFICIALS WATCHED HELPLESSLY DURING THE 40-SECOND BARRAGE, THEN BURST INTO THE SHATTERED ROOM TO FIND

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DUBS DEAD.

DESPITE STRONG DENIALS FROM THE AFGHANISTAN GOVERNMENT THAT SOVIET ADVISERS WERE PRESENT AT THE ASSAULT ON THE HOTEL LAST WEEK, THE CONFIDENTIAL 14-PAGE CABLE, MADE AVAILABLE TO THE WASHINGTON POST, SAYS THAT AT LEAST THREE ADVISERS PLAYED "OPERATION ROLES" IN THE UNSUCCESSFUL AFGHAN EFFORT TO RESCUE DUBS.

WRITTEN TWO HOURS AFTER DUBS' KILLING AND BEFORE CONTROVERSY BEGAN TO SWIRL AROUND THE SOVIET ROLE, THE CABLE AND THE EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS IT CONTAINS UNDERPIN THE ADMINISTRATION'S PUBLICLY STATED ANGER AT THE SOVIET UNION AND AFGHANISTAN OVER THE DEATH OF THE 58-YEAR OLD ENVOY.

EVIDENTLY CONCERNED ABOUT SOVIET AND AFGHAN REACTION, THE STATE DEPARTMENT CONTINUES TO WITHHOLD THE CABLE, SIGNED BY DUBS' DEPUTY, J. BRUCE AMSTUTZ, FROM PUBLICATION. GOVERNMENT SOURCES, DISTRESSED BY THE AFGHAN DENIALS AND US NEWS ACCOUNTS FEATURING THE DENIALS, MADE THE CABLE AVAILABLE ON THE CONDITION THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE IDENTIFIED.

DETAILS DISCLOSED OR AMPLIFIED BY THE REPORTING OF US EMBASSY OFFICIALS WHO ARRIVED AT THE HOTEL AND AT THE
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AFGHAN NATIONAL POLICE HEADQUARTERS ON FEB. 14, SHORTLY AFTER DUBS WAS ABDUCTED BY FOUR MEN, INCLUDE:

RUSSIAN ADVISERS GAVE HAND SIGNALS THAT BEGAN AND HALTED THE GUNFIRE. AFTER THE 40-SECOND VOLLEY, AFGHAN "POLICE SNIPERS ACROSS THE STREET CONTINUED TO FIRE UNTIL TWO SOVIET ADVISERS GAVE HAND SIGNALS TO CUT IT OFF."

THROUGHOUT THE SIEGE, A RUSSIAN CIVILIAN WAS IN THE OFFICE OF MAJ. DAUD TAROUN, THE COMMANDER OF THE AFGHAN NATIONAL POLICE AND THE OFFICIAL WHO EVIDENTLY GAVE THE FINAL ORDERS FOR THE ASSAULT.

TAROUN REFUSED TO TALK TO A US EMBASSY OFFICIAL SEATED OUTSIDE HIS OFFICE DURING AND IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE SIEGE, SAYING HE WAS "TOO BUSY."

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TWO OF THE FOUR TERRORISTS WHO ABDUCTED DUBS WERE KILLED IN THE ASSAULT. US OFFICIALS SAW A THIRD GUNMAN STILL ALIVE BEING LED AWAY BY POLICE AFTER THE SIEGE. THE BODIES OF THAT MAN AND A FOURTH "TERRORIST" WERE DISPLAYED AT THE MORGUE LATER IN THE DAY.

AFGHAN OFFICIALS REPEATEDLY REFUSED TO TELL EMBASSY OFFICERS THAT THE ASSAULT WAS ABOUT TO BE LAUNCHED IN THE MINUTES BEFORE IT WAS ORDERED.

THE STORY OF DUBS' DEATH IN ROOM 117 OF THE DRAB, CAVERNOUS KABUL HOTEL IS BEING PORTRAYED BY THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT AS A REGRETTABLE BUT UNAVOIDABLE RESPONSE TO TERRORISTS WHO HAD GIVEN POLICE 10 MINUTES TO MEET AN IMPOSSIBLE DEMAND.

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BUT STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WHO HAVE READ THE CABLE AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION FROM THE EMBASSY IN KABUL SAY THEY BELIEVE THAT THE KEY TO THE STORY MAY BE THE HARSH ANTI-TERRORISTS TACTICS THE SOVIETS USE AT HOME AND APPEAR TO TEACH ABROAD.

THE BLOODY RESULTS THAT THOSE NO-NEGOTIATING TACTICS WERE TO BRING UNFOLD IN FLAT, ALMOST LACONIC PROSE IN THE CABLE'S CHRONOLOGY, WHICH BEGINS AT 8:45 AM ON FEB. 14 WITH DUBS' LIMOUSINE BEING STOPPED IN DOWNTOWN KABUL BY A MAN IN A TRAFFIC POLICE UNIFORM.

FOUR ARMED MEN THEN FORCED THEIR WAY INTO THE CAR AND MADE THE CHAUFFEUR DRIVE TO THE HOTEL. THE CHAUFFEUR THEN WAS ORDERED TO GO BACK TO THE EMBASSY WITH NEWS OF THE KIDNAPING. US OFFICIALS ARRIVED AT THE HOTEL BY 9 AM, ABOUT THE SAME TIME AFGHAN POLICE GOT THERE.

"AT ABOUT 9:20, THE FIRST SOVIET POLICE ADVISER, A TALL BALDING MAN WITH A BLACK OVERCOAT, ARRIVED ON THE SCENE AND IMMEDIATELY WENT INTO CONSULTATION WITH THE AFGHAN OFFICIALS," THE CABLE REPORTS. TEN MINUTES LATER, "THERE WAS A SMALL CONFERENCE AMONG THE AMERICANS, THE AFGHAN POLICE AND THE SOVIET ADVISER."

THE DESCRIPTION OF THIS CONFERENCE AND LATER CONVERSATIONS

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THAT DIRECTLY INVOLVED THE AMERICANS, AFGHANS AND SOVIETS SHARPLY CONTRADICTS AFGHAN ACCOUNTS THAT BLAME CONFUSION ON LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED BY THE THREE NATIONALITIES.

MOREOVER, AT THAT CONFERENCE, AND FOR THE NEXT FOUR HOURS THE AMERICANS WERE TOLD THAT THE KIDNAPERS HAD NOT MADE A SPECIFIC THREAT ON DUBS' LIFE OR ESTABLISHED A DEADLINE, ACCORDING TO THE CABLE.

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EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER BRUCE FLATIN PLEADED WITH THE AFGHANS AND THE SOVIETS AT THE HOTEL NOT TO TAKE ANY 'PRECIPITIOUS' ACTION, AND TO WAIT FOR ADVICE THAT THE EMBASSY HAD REQUESTED FROM WASHINGTON. AS HE FINISHED SPEAKING, "TWO SOVIET PLAINCLOTHESMEN ARRIVED ON THE SCENE, CARRYING SEVERAL GREEN CANVAS BAGS," THE CABLE SAID.

AT 10:15, SERGEI BAKHTURIN, THE SOVIET EMBASSY SECURITY OFFICER, CAME TO THE HOTEL. HE IMMEDIATELY ASSURED THE AMERICANS OF A STRONG SOVIET INTEREST IN THE AMBASSADOR'S SAFETY. ONE OF THE AFGHAN POLICE OFFICIALS "PROMISED TO DEFEND THE AMBASSADOR WITH HIS OWN LIFE," ACCORDING TO THE CABLE.

AT THAT POINT, THE AMERICANS WERE UNCERTAIN HOW MANY MEN WERE HOLDING DUBS. THEY SUBSEQUENTLY LEARNED THAT ONE GUNMAN HAD COME DOWNSTAIRS TO LOOK FOR A KEY AND HAD BEEN OVERPOWERED AND CAPTURED IN THE HOTEL LOBBY.

THE EMBASSY ALSO DISPATCHED POLITICAL OFFICER JAMES E. TAYLOR TO THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR TO SEE TAROUN, THE POLICE COMMANDER. ARRIVING AT 11:15, HE REPEATEDLY SENT MESSAGES IN TO TAROUN ASKING THAT NO MOVE BE MADE THAT WOULD ENDANGER DUBS' LIFE. BUT TAROUN REFUSED TO SEE TAYLOR, AND KEPT HIM WAITING OUTSIDE HIS OFFICE.

THE FIRST SIGNS OF PREPARATIONS FOR AN ASSAULT CAME AT 11:20, WHEN AFGHAN TROOPS WITH COMMANDO BADGES BEGAN SEALING OFF STREETS AND SETTING UP LADDERS AGAINST THE SIDE OF THE HOTEL IN FULL VIEW OF THOSE IN ROOM 117. ASTONISHED AMERICANS "ONCE AGAIN ASKED THE AFGHAN POLICE FORCE FOR PATIENCE," AND NO ASSAULT MATERIALIZED.

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BAKHTURIN, EMERGES IN THE CABLE AS THE PRINCIPAL GO-BETWEEN. HE TOLD US OFFICERS THAT THE GUNMEN HAD DEMANDED THE RETURN OF THEIR CAPTURED ACCOMPLICE, A DEMAND THAT WAS NOT MET.

WHEN THE POLICE ASKED FLATIN TO SHOUT TO DUBS TO TRY TO GO TO THE BATHROOM OR DROP TO THE FLOOR IN 10 MINUTES, FLATIN REFUSED, RECOGNIZING THAT THE AFGHANS WERE READYING AN ASSAULT. THE POLICE OFFICER IN CHARGE "BECAME VERY UPSET AND INSISTED THAT HE WAS UNDER ORDERS TO STRIKE IMMEDIATELY," ACCORDING TO THE CABLE.

IT WAS SHORTLY AFTER NOON AT THAT POINT, AND BAKHTURIN DISCLOSED TO FLATIN FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT THE POLICE FELT THAT A 1 PM DEADLINE HAD BEEN SET BY THE KIDNAPERS. THE TRAGEDY THAT WAS BUILDING BECOMES MORE VISIBLE IN THE CABLE'S NEW TONE OF INEVITABILITY.

FIREMEN WITH PICKS AND AXES ARRIVED AND JOINED THE POLICE. A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE AMBASSADOR WAS DISPLAYED TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY STRIKE FORCE. ONE OF THE COMMAND-OS THEN ASKED, 'IS THAT THE TERRORIST?' HE WAS TOLD THAT

IT WAS THE AMBASSADOR, WHOM HE WAS TO AVOID SHOOTING, THE CABLE STATES.

THE AFGHAN FORCES APPEARED TO THE AMERICANS TO BE RECEIVING ORDERS OVER A RADIO SET UP IN A SMALL ROOM OFF THE HOTEL LOBBY. THE CABLE SUGGESTS THAT TAROUN WAS DIRECTING THE ASSAULT BY RADIO FROM HIS OFFICE.

AT 12:45, "ONE SPECIALLY ARMED AND ARMORED POLICEMAN LAY PRONE ON THE FLOOR BEFORE THE DOOR, POINTING HIS WEAPON AT THE DOOR. THE SOVIET ADVISERS THEN STEPPED FORWARD INTO OPERATION ROLES, HANDLING A WEAPON FROM A GREEN CANVAS BAG TO ONE OF THE AFGHAN SOLDIERS AND POSITIONING
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THE SNIPERS," THE CABLE SAYS.

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*AT EXACTLY 12:50, VERY HEAVY GUNFIRE BROKE OUT IN THE CORRIDOR, IN THE ROOM AND FROM ACROSS THE STREET. BOTH SINGLE-SHOT AND AUTOMATIC WEAPONS WERE HEARD.

*THE ENTRYWAY INTO THE HOTEL ROOM WAS A SEVEN-FOOT-LONG HALL WHOSE AIR WAS FILLED WITH DENSE CORDITE SMOKE,, THE AMERICAN GROUP REPORTED. THEY FOUND DUBS' BODY BESIDE A WARDROBE. HE HAD A SINGLE SMALL-CALIBER WOUND ABOVE THE RIGHT EYE AND A LARGE-CALIBER BULLET WOUND IN THE HEART AREA AND HAD A WOUND IN THE LEFT WRIST.

THE AMERICANS HURRIEDLY INSPECTED THE ROOM FOR EVIDENCE, AND TOOK NOTES OF THE EXTENSIVE DAMAGE. THREE DAYS LATER, WHEN THEY RETURNED FOR ANOTHER INSPECTION, THEY FOUND THAT THE ROOM HAD BEEN REPLASTERED AND REPAINTED, AND THAT ALL TRACES OF ADOLPH DUBS' KILLING HAD BEEN ERASED. END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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